

Message Text

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PA-01 IO-13 L-03 USIA-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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U

-----040830Z 122539 /15
R 040124Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US (BRAZINSKAS, ALGIRDAS AND PRANAS)

SUBJECT: BRAZINSKAS HIJACKING CASE - WHITE HOUSE REPLY TO
LETTER FROM AIRCRAFT CREW

REF: A. STATE 82276, B. MOSCOW 5851, C. MOSCOW 4295

1. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING TO EMBASSY MOSCOW FOR FORWARDING
TO ADDRESSEES THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO REF C LETTER TO PRESI-
DENT FROM CREWMEN OF AIRCRAFT HIJACKED BY ALGIRDAS AND
PRANAS BRAZINSKAS IN 1970.

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2. QUOTE DEAR MR. SHAVIDZE AND MR. BABAYAN:

"I AM WRITING IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 23 TO
PRESIDENT CARTER CONCERNING THE CASE OF ALGIRDAS AND
PRANAS BRAZINSKAS, WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE SKYJACKING OF
YOUR AIRCRAFT FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO TURKEY IN 1970.

THEY WERE ALSO HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SENSELESS DEATH OF A STEWARDESS ABOARD YOUR AIRCRAFT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS VERY EASY FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THIS CASE AND I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION ON SUCH ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNALTERABLY OPPOSES THE USE OF TERRORIST TACTICS--INCLUDING THE HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT-- FOR ANY PURPOSE. AS A PARTY TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION WE RECOGNIZE SUCH ACTS TO BE CRIMINAL AND WE SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF SUCH ACTS SHOULD BE PROSECUTED.

"IN THE CASE OF ALGIRDAS AND PRANAS BRAZINSKAS, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN TURKEY THEY WERE ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED. THEY WERE RELEASED UNDER A GENERAL AMNESTY AND CONFINED TO A REFUGEE CAMP.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, THEY TRAVELLED TO VENEZUELA. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 25, 1976, THEY ILLEGALLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES WHILE IN TRANSIT TO CANADA. THEY WERE ARRESTED AND ARE NOW THE SUBJECTS OF DEPORTATION HEARINGS IN NEW YORK AND BOSTON. THEIR REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES WAS REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR ACT CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS, NON-POLITICAL CRIME.

"IF THEY ARE FOUND DEPORTABLE, THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WOULD PRESUMABLY SEEK TO DEPORT THEM TO THE COUNTRY OF LAST PREVIOUS RESIDENCE--IN THEIR CASE VENEZUELA-- IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES LAW.

"I HOPE THIS INFORMATION IS HELPFUL. SINCERELY,
VALERIO L. GIANNINI, STAFF ASSISTANT UNQUOTE THE LETTER
IS DATED APRIL 27.

3. PLEASE REPORT WHEN LETTER RECEIVED AND FORWARDED.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, EXTRADITION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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